

Agn. No. ____

MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS

July 19, 2016

SUPPORT AB 2444 (GARCIA), RELATED TO THE PROPOSED STATE PARKS BOND

Parks are essential to thriving, safe communities, and contribute to public health and well-being, create a sense of place, increase community cohesion, and improve the environment. The Board of Supervisors has affirmed the importance of parks in our communities by initiating the recently completed 2016 Parks Needs Assessment and voting to ask voters to consider a parcel tax to fund a dedicated funding stream to create and maintain neighborhood and city parks and conserve and protect local water resources. Even if a local revenue source is approved, additional funding for parks projects is needed to address what the Parks Needs Assessment estimated to be \$21.5 billion of prioritized projects and deferred maintenance projects throughout the County.

The Legislature is considering AB 2444 (Garcia), the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2016 (Act), for placement on the November 8, 2016 ballot. If enacted and approved by the voters, the Act would authorize the issuance of State general obligations bonds in the amount of \$3.12 billion to be used to finance parks, water, climate, and coastal protection and

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outdoor access for all programs. Specifically, AB 2444 would allocate funding for parks in park-poor neighborhoods, local and regional parks rehabilitation and improvements, trails and waterfront greenway investments, enhancing river parkways, protecting and enhancing urban streams, and climate adaptation and resiliency projects.

This measure would provide critically needed funding to ensure the availability and improvement of local parks and regional parks, the upper and lower Los Angeles River, and open space and public lands. AB 2444 is supported by a broad coalition of interests, including conservation and environmental groups, parks and recreation districts, and water agencies.

It is critically important that we support the State's effort to make further investments in parks and open space to ensure that all Californians will have access to parks and open space and opportunities to enjoy California's natural environment.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office and the County's Sacramento advocates to prepare a five-signature letter in support AB 2444, the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2016.

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